

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **Penreco**

**138 Petrolia Street  
Karns City, PA 16041  
Congressional District 21  
EPA ID #: PAD065626822  
Last Updated 12/30/2002**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

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EPA and EPA's contractor recently conducted an Environmental Indicator (EI) inspection at this facility on June 29, 2000 to determine if RCRA Corrective Action is necessary. June 29, 2000. EPA determined that there are two primary areas of concern. Other areas where release have taken place were remediated under the supervision of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The two areas of concern are the Upper Waste Disposal Area and the Lower Waste Disposal Area.

**Upper Waste Disposal Area:** The Upper Disposal Area is approximately 18 acres in size and is located at the northern end of the property. Penreco disposed of about 240,000 cubic yards of sludges, fly ash, filter cake, bauxite, and other materials between 1935 and 1985. In 1987-1988 the material from the Lower Disposal Area was excavated, stabilized and placed in the Upper Disposal Area. The Upper Disposal area was capped, a surface water collection system installed, and groundwater monitoring wells installed under the supervision of PADEP. Monitoring of the Upper Waste Disposal Area continues.

**Lower Waste Disposal Area:** The Lower Disposal Area is approximately 0.75 acres in size and is located at the northern end of the property. It was made up of the acid sludge pit and the tar pit. The acid sludge pit contained approximately 12,200 cubic yards of spent oleum waste. The tar pit contained about 1,100 cubic yards of hardened wax residue. During 1987-1988, material from the acid sludge pit was removed and placed in the Upper Waste Disposal Area. Material from the tar pit was excavated, blended with fuel oil and used as a fuel at Penreco. After removal of the waste, the entire Lower Disposal Area was graded, covered with soil, and seeded. Three wells monitor groundwater downgradient of the Lower Disposal Area.

Penreco continues to work with PADEP on remediation of these areas. EPA is currently evaluating the data gathered during this site evaluation. If further remediation is necessary, EPA will take actions necessary to protect human health and the environment.

## **Site Description**

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The Penreco Division of the Pennzoil Products Company is an approximately 288 acre site in Fairview Township, Butler County, PA. It is located along the banks of the South Branch of Bear Creek. It is one of several oil refineries in the area.

This site was constructed in 1878 as a petroleum refinery which processed local Pennsylvania crude oil. The company was purchased by Pennzoil in 1972 who converted the facility to the production of white mineral oils, high purity kerosene-based solids, and rust preventatives. Currently, the facility converts feedstock to four product types: white oils or food grade mineral oils, petrolatum, kero-base products, and speciality products. Many products have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for food applications and uses in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.

## **Site Responsibility**

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Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of PADEP. EPA Region 3 will determine if further action under RCRA is necessary.

## **Contaminants**

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The primary contaminants found in the soil and groundwater are petroleum hydrocarbons.

## **Community Interaction**

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If there is further action, EPA will inform the public.

## **Government Contact**

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EPA Project Manager  
Ms. Renee Gelblat - 3WC22  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
Phone: (215) 814-3421  
Email: [gelblat.renee@epa.gov](mailto:gelblat.renee@epa.gov)

PADEP Project Manager  
Richard Marttala  
PADEP  
230 Chestnut Street  
Meadville, PA 16335  
Phone: (814) 332-6848  
Email: [marttala.richard@state.pa.us](mailto:marttala.richard@state.pa.us)

For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)